



# BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



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## BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMAS B. WRIGHT

Brigadier General Thomas B. Wright is the commander of the 9th Reconnaissance Wing, Beale Air Force Base, CA. As commander, he is responsible for approximately 7,000 U.S. military, civilian and contractor personnel, and the Air Force' entire high-altitude reconnaissance fleet comprised of three U-2 squadrons, one Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle squadron, four groups, and three overseas operating locations. General Wright develops and executes worldwide, JCS-tasked reconnaissance missions with an annual flying allocation of over 13,000 hours. He is responsible for the selection as well as for the initial, continuation and combat training for all U-2 and Global Hawk pilots.



As a graduate of the Florida State University Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, the general entered active duty in 1977. He has commanded a fighter test and evaluation squadron, an air operations group and a fighter wing. His previous staff tours include a major command headquarters where he was the aide to the Tactical Air Command commander, a joint/combined command as a Division Chief at Headquarters NORAD and Vice Director of Air Force Studies and Analyses Agency. The general is a command pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours including more than 400 hours of combat time.

### EDUCATION:

- 1975 Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Science, Florida State University
- 1977 Master of Science degree in Biological Science, Florida State University
- 1977 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL.
- 1985 USAF F-15 Fighter Weapons Instructor Course, Nellis Air Force Base, NV.
- 1989 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL.
- 1996 Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Ft Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.
- 1996 Master of Science Degree in National Defense Strategy, National Defense University

### ASSIGNMENTS:

1. April 1977 - August 1977, weapons controller training, Tyndall Air Force Base, FL.
2. September 1977 - May 1979, weapons director, 25th Air Division, McChord Air Force Base, WA.
3. June 1979 - June 1980, student, undergraduate pilot training, Williams Air Force Base, AZ.
4. July 1980 - September 1980, fighter lead-in training, 416th Tactical fighter Training Squadron, Holloman Air Force Base, NM.

5. October 1980 - February 1981, F-15 qualification training, 461st Tactical Fighter Squadron, Luke Air Force Base, AZ.
6. March 1981 - February 1984, F-15 aircraft commander, instructor pilot, 8th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Holloman Air Force Base, NM.
7. March 1984 - May 1984, F-15 replacement training unit instructor course, 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Luke Air Force Base, AZ.
8. June 1984 - March 1985, F-15 initial cadre instructor pilot, 1st Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, Tyndall Air Force Base, FL.
9. April 1985 - August 1985, student, F-15 fighter weapons instructor course, Nellis Air Force Base, NV.
10. September 1985 - April 1987, squadron weapons and tactics officer (1st Tactical Fighter Training Squadron), air-to-air academic instructor (325th Tactical Training Squadron), Tyndall Air Force Base, FL.
11. May 1987 - May 1988, F-15 flight commander, 57th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Keflavik, Iceland.
12. June 1988 - Jun 1989, student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL.
13. July 1989 - November 1989, chief, F-15 air support branch, Headquarters, Tactical Air Command, Langley Air Force Base, VA.
14. December 1989 - April 1992, aide to Tactical Air Command commander, Headquarters, Tactical Air Command, Langley Air Force Base, VA.
15. May 1992 - June 1992, student, F-15 recurrence training, 95th Fighter Training Squadron, Tyndall Air Force Base, FL.
16. July 1992 - July 1993, assistant operations officer, operations officer with deployment to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, 58th Fighter Squadron, William Tell 1992 project officer, chief of standards and evaluations, 33d Fighter Wing, Eglin Air Force Base, FL.
17. August 1993 - November 1993, chief of safety, United States Air Warfare Center, Eglin Air Force Base, FL.
18. December 1993 - July 1995, commander, 85th Test and Evaluation Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, FL.
19. August 1995 - June 1996, student, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.
20. July 1996 - July 1998, chief, aerospace control division, Headquarters, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), Peterson Air Force Base, CO.
21. August 1998 - May 2000, commander, 611th Air Operations Group, Elmendorf Air Force Base, AK.
22. June 2000 - December 2001, commander, 39th Wing and 39th Air and Space Expeditionary Wing, Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.
23. January 2002 - March 2003, vice director, Air Force Studies and Analyses Agency, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
24. March 2003 - present, commander, 9<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Wing, Beale Air Force Base, CA.

#### **FLIGHT INFORMATION:**

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours: More than 3,000

Aircraft Flown: F-15A/B/C/D, T-38, U-2

#### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:**

Defense Superior Service Medal

Legion of Merit with one device

Meritorious Service Medal with three devices

Air Medal with two devices

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with one device

Air Force Achievement Medal with one device

National Defense Service Medal with one device

Southwest Asia Service Medal with two devices

**OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:**

1977 – Distinguished graduate, weapons controller school, Tyndall Air Force Base, FL.  
1978 – Weapons Controller of the Year, Air Defense Command  
1980 – Distinguished graduate, undergraduate pilot training, Williams Air Force Base, AZ.  
1981 – Distinguished graduate, top gun, top academic award, F-15 qualification training, Luke Air Force Base, AZ.  
1986 – F-15 Instructor Pilot of the Year, Tactical Air Command

**EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:**

Second Lieutenant	Apr. 8, 1977
First Lieutenant	Jun. 4, 1978
Captain	Apr. 4, 1980
Major	Sep. 1, 1987
Lieutenant Colonel	Apr. 1, 1992
Colonel	Oct. 1, 1996
Brigadier General	Aug. 1, 2003

(Current as of August 2003)